

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring a remote entity, comprising:
designating a predetermined region for monitoring;
receiving information at a first location from the remote entity, wherein the information includes location information; and
determining whether the remote entity has approached the predetermined region; and
noting an exception based on the information received from the remote entity.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the predetermined region is a restricted region and the exception is noted if the remote entity approaches the restricted region.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the predetermined region is a desired destination and the exception is noted if the remote entity does not approach the desired destination.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the desired destination is a client site.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising generating a report listing any exceptions generated from the remote entity.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for exception reporting in a vehicle management system, comprising:

receiving data corresponding to a parameter of the vehicle;

determining whether the data corresponding to the parameter is outside a range of acceptable values; and

if the data corresponding to the parameter is outside a range of acceptable values, noting an exception.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the parameter comprises stationary time of the vehicle.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the parameter comprises a number of times the vehicle is within a predetermined proximity to a service center.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the parameter comprises a length of time the vehicle is in motion.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the length of time the vehicle is in motion is referred to as windshield time.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the parameter comprises travel distance.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the parameter comprises vehicle speed.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, further comprising generating a report listing exceptions.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the data is generated by a location management system of the vehicle.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the location management system comprises a Global Positioning System.

46. (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring a vehicle, comprising:
designating a predetermined region for monitoring;
determining location information of the vehicle;
determining whether the vehicle has approached the predetermined region; and
noting an exception based on a comparison of the location information and the predetermined region.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the predetermined region comprises a restricted region and the exception is noted if the location information is within a predetermined distance of the restricted region.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the predetermined region comprises a desired location and the exception is noted if the vehicle is beyond a predetermined distance from the desired location.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the desired location comprises a client site.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising generating a report listing any exceptions generated from the remote entity.

51. (Previously Presented) A vehicle monitoring system, comprising:
a receiver for receiving vehicle location information; and
a processor in communication with the receiver,
the processor programmed to perform a comparison of the vehicle location information to a predefined parameter and to note an exception based on the comparison.

52. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, wherein the predefined parameter comprises a desired location and the exception comprises a state wherein the vehicle is beyond a predetermined distance from the desired location.

53. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, wherein the predefined parameter comprises a restricted region and the exception comprises a state whereby the vehicle is within a predetermined distance of the restricted region.

54. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, wherein the predefined parameter comprises a predetermined speed and the exception comprises a state whereby the vehicle is traveling at a speed greater than the predetermined speed.

55. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, wherein the receiver comprises a Global Positioning System receiver.

56. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, further comprising a report generator for generating reports listing any noted exception.

57. (Previously Presented) The vehicle monitoring system of claim 51, wherein the receiver is in further communication with an ignition sensor.

58. (Previously Presented) A vehicle monitoring system, comprising:
a receiver for receiving vehicle location information; and
a processor in communication with the receiver,
the processor programmed to determine the length of time the vehicle remains stationary,
compare the length of time the vehicle remains stationary to a predetermined stationary time, and

if the length of time the vehicle remains stationary is greater than or equal to the predetermined stationary time, then note an exception.

59. (New) A method of monitoring a remote entity, comprising:
designating a predetermined region for monitoring;
receiving information at the remote entity, wherein the information includes location information;

determining whether the remote entity has approached the predetermined region; and
noting an exception based on the information received at the remote entity.

60. (New) A system comprising:
a remote unit comprising a Global Positioning System receiver and a processor in communication with the Global Positioning System receiver; and
a memory in communication with the remote unit,
wherein the remote unit receives Global Positioning System data and uses the Global Positioning System data to generate an actual value for a predetermined parameter, and wherein the system compares the actual value to a plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter, and wherein the remote unit notes in memory if the actual value does not equal one of the plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter.

61. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the remote unit communicates with an ignition sensor of a vehicle.

62. (New) The system of claim 61, wherein the system receives a signal from the ignition sensor, determines a location of the vehicle, retrieves a time, and stores the time as a start of a shift time.

63. (New) The system according to claim 62, wherein a service center location is designated.

64. (New) The system according to claim 62, wherein an actual start of shift time is compared to a predetermined range of start of shift times, and if the actual start of shift time falls outside the predetermined range of start of shift times, the system notes an exception.

65. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined parameter is speed and the actual value is an actual speed of the remote unit.

66. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined parameter is stationary time and the actual value is a duration of remote unit stationary time.

67. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined parameter is a number of times the remote unit is within a predetermined proximity to a service location and the actual value is an actual number of times the remote unit is within the predetermined proximity to the service location.

68. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined parameter is windshield time, and the actual value is actual windshield time.

69. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the predetermined parameter is distance over a period of time, and the actual value is an actual distance traveled by the remote unit over the period of time.

70. (New) The system according to claim 60, wherein the remote unit detects a loss of reception of Global Positioning System data and stores information associated with the loss of reception.

71. (New) A system comprising:

a remote unit comprising a Global Positioning System receiver, a processor in communication with the Global Positioning System receiver and in communication with a memory, wherein the remote unit uses the Global Positioning System data to determine an actual speed of the remote unit, compares the actual speed to a predetermined upper speed limit, and notes an exception if the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit.

72. (New) The system of claim 71, wherein an exception is noted if the actual speed equals the predetermined upper speed limit.

73. (New) The system according to claim 71, wherein the Global Positioning System data is used to determine a duration of remote unit stationary time and the duration of remote unit stationary time is compared to a predetermined stationary time threshold, and if the actual duration of remote unit stationary time is greater than the predetermined stationary time threshold, the system notes an exception.

74. (New) The system of claim 73, wherein an exception is noted if the actual duration of remote unit stationary time equals the predetermined stationary time threshold.

75. (New) The system according to claim 71, wherein at least one report is generated.

76. (New) The system according to claim 71, wherein the system notes if the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit by generating a report that includes information related to instances where the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit.

77. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the predetermined region is a restricted region and the exception is noted if the remote entity approaches the restricted region.

78. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the predetermined region is a desired destination and the exception is noted if the remote entity does not approach the desired destination.

79. (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the desired destination is a client site.

80. (New) A system for monitoring a remote entity, comprising:
a GPS receiver, wherein the GPS receiver receives location information regarding the remote entity;
a memory, wherein the memory is capable of storing a predetermined region for monitoring,
wherein the system uses the location information to determine whether the remote entity has approached the predetermined region and, if so, notes an exception.

81. (New) A system comprising:
a remote unit comprising a Global Positioning System receiver, wherein the remote unit receives Global Positioning System data and uses the Global Positioning System data to generate an actual value for a predetermined parameter, and wherein the system compares the actual value to a plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter, and wherein the system records an exception if the actual value does not equal one of the plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter.

82. (New) The system according to claim 81, wherein the predetermined parameter is speed and the actual value is an actual speed of the remote unit.

83. (New) A method for monitoring a vehicle comprising:
receiving Global Positioning System data at a remote unit of the vehicle;

using the Global Positioning System data to generate an actual value for a predetermined parameter;
comparing the actual value to a plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter; and
noting an exception if the actual value does not equal one of the plurality of acceptable values for the predetermined parameter.

84. (New) The method according to claim 83, wherein the predetermined parameter is speed and the actual value is an actual speed of the remote unit.

85. (New) The method according to claim 83, wherein the predetermined parameter is stationary time and the actual value is an actual duration of remote unit stationary time.

86. (New) A method for monitoring a vehicle with a remote Global Positioning System receiver, comprising:
receiving Global Positioning System data to determine an actual speed for the vehicle;
comparing the actual speed to a predetermined upper speed limit; and
noting an exception if the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein an exception is noted if the actual speed equals the predetermined upper speed limit.

88. (New) The method according to claim 86, wherein the Global Positioning System data is used to determine an actual duration of remote unit stationary time and the actual duration of remote unit stationary time is compared to a predetermined stationary time threshold, and if the actual duration of remote unit stationary time is greater than the predetermined stationary time threshold, noting an exception.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising noting an exception if the actual duration of remote unit stationary time equals the predetermined stationary time.

90. (New) The method of claim 86, further comprising generating at least one report.

91. (New) The method of claim 86, further comprising noting if the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit by generating a report that includes information related to instances where the actual speed is greater than the predetermined upper speed limit.

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 1-19. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-19, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-19.

The replacement sheets comprise the same formal drawings filed in Application Serial No. 09/474,368, now U.S. Patent No. 6,356,841, of which the current application is a continuation.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets